through a letter dated 6th February, 1992; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) As part of the effort to contain the fiscal deficit and to improve Government receipts, it was decided to impress upon profit making public sector enterprises to declare 50 per cent higher dividends as compared to the previous year. Accordingly, the public sector banks were advised by a letter dated the 6th February, 1992 to take necessary steps in compliance with the Government decision to declare suitably higher dividends for the year ending 31st March, 1992.

Expansion of capital by S.C.I.C.I.

3735. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that S.C.I.C.I. is doubling its authorised capital;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that S.C.I.C.I. is diversifying its loan portfolio?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. S.C.I.C.I., which is a non government company under the Companies Act, has indicated that it has passed the requisite resolutions of its shareholders for increasing its authorised share capital from Rs. 100 crores to Rs. 200 crores to enable the company to make a rights issue of equity shares to its shareholders and thereby augment the rupee resources of the company.

(c) Yes Sir. S.C.I.C.I. has indicated that it has diversified its operations by providing long term finance to enterprises in the sectors of energy, telecommunications, and tourism and travel. These are sectors of the economy involving basic infrastructural development and a growth potential. Further diversification into other areas of industrial and commercial activities is also under consideration.

Losses to banks due to robberies and dacoities by militants

3736. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the loss caused to various banks on account of the robberies and dacoities by militants in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and other States during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): As per available information, an amount of Rs. 10.76 crores is involved in the robberies/dacoities which took place in all the public sector banks in various States (including Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab) and Union Territories in the country during the period from 1990 upto June, 1992. The present system of data collection does not generate information regarding the loss specifically due to robberies and dacoities by militants.

राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण बैंक का स्थापित किया जाना

3737. **श्री विनोद शर्मा :** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने लगभग 197 विद्यमान क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंकों को मिलाकर एक राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण बैंक स्थापित करने का निर्णय लिया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस निर्णय के परिणामस्वरूप ग्रामीण लोगों को क्या-क्या लाभ होंगे; और

(ग) प्रारम्भ में उस बैंक की कुल कितनी शाखायें स्थापित किये जाने का निर्णय किया गया है और इस निर्णय को कब कार्यान्वित किया जाना है ?